

Mike Rock

Candidate for Member-at-Large

Mike is presently an Information Systems Manager 3, for the Department of Revenue. He is a graduate of the TGMI Class of 2010.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: Mike enjoys playing tennis regularly including an occasional tournament. Also, Mike and his wife enjoy plays and cookouts with friends.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES: Mike has been a coach in youth sports, he runs the sound system where he attends church, and he has volunteered to help at his children's schools.

MOST MEMORABLE TGMI EXPERIENCE: Two – First, was in the ropes course when teamwork took hold in our group. Second, was while leading a group project, a difficult member enthusiastically embraced a specific task I assigned based on their personality type – it really works.

REASON FOR WANTING TO BE MEMBER-AT-LARGE:

“Without hesitation, I believe that the goals, training, and membership qualifications inherent to TGMI represent how the organization benefits Tennessee State Government. Training and providing support for TGMI membership creates a stronger candidate for leadership and an enhanced leadership roster with State Government.

However, the organization is voluntary and seems as a result to eventually become a nice resume item without the momentum of those first years after graduation. Job announcements, community service projects, and brown-bag lunch speakers are all good perks to the TGMI membership, but sustaining momentum requires that personal connections that differing agencies and geographic distance eventually seem to wear down.

Making the organization intimate and close net may require an evolving network. Groups collaboration that extends beyond a Class may help keep involvement seem relevant to those that seem to have “dropped

out.” I would suggest that although the Class sets up a network within State Government that is extremely valuable, perhaps encouraging linking members more in line with Alumni within their own agency as well will make that support group more immediate.

I know personally that friends made during my time at TGMI events are real but it is hard to maintain when a Classmate works at a State prison in East Tennessee and I work near the State Capital.”